

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

## **Fast Melting Snow Filling Mid-Pacific Region Reservoirs**



Summer heat in the Mid-Pacific Region is melting unusually heavy mountain snowpacks, quickly filling Bureau of Reclamation reservoirs for the first time in years.

In one significant development, Reclamation has begun spilling water over the top of Friant Dam for the first time since 2006. Water year 2011 is expected to become the wettest year in the Region since Water Year 1995.

Friant Dam forms Millerton Lake on the San Joaquin River in California's Central Valley. Inflow was about 14,000 cubic feet per second and outflow, over the spillway and through valves, was nearly 13,000 acre-feet. Millerton Lake has a capacity of about 525,000 acre feet.

South Central Area Office Manager Michael Jackson says he expects to see water flowing over the top for several days.

Water releases from dams are part of Reclamation's water management mission to store as much water as possible for use through the year while maintaining adequate capacity for flood control.

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For additional information, please contact the  
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